

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 20. Thus, amended Claim 1 is supported by at least original Claims 1 and 20.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claims 1 and 6. Thus, amended Claim 7 is supported by original Claims 1, 6, and 7.

Claims 8-15 and 22 have been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 1. Thus, amended Claims 8-15 and 22 are supported by at least original Claims 1, and 8-15 and 22, respectively.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 25. Thus, amended Claim 24 is supported by at least original Claims 24 and 25.

Claims 26-27 have been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 24. Thus, amended Claims 26 and 27 are supported by at least original Claims 24, and 26-27, respectively.

No new matter has been added.

CLAIMSClaim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 16-19, 21, 24 and 29-32 under "35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCutchen (US Patent no. 6,141,034) in view of Miller (US Patent no. 6,118,595). However the Examiner also stated that "Claims 7-15, 20, 22-23, 25-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 20 (which is cancelled in this amendment). Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 has been rendered moot due to the amendment of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claim 1. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-6, 16-19, and 21, which depend from Claim 1, are also allowable.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 25 (which is cancelled in this amendment). Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 24 has been rendered moot due to the amendment of Claim 24. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claim 24.

Claims 29-32 are cancelled in this amendment.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

The Examiner stated that "Claims 7-15, 20, 22-23, 25-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including

all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Claim 7 has been amended to be in independent form and to include the limitations of original Claims 1 and 6, from which original Claim 6 depended. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claim 7.

Claims 8-15 and 22 have been amended to be in independent form and to include the limitations of original Claim 1, from which original Claims 8-15 and 22 depended. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 8-15 and 22. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 23, which depends from Claim 22, is also allowable.

Due to an obvious and inadvertent clerical error, original Claim 26 depended from original Claim 26. Applicant believes the objection to Claim 26 by the Examiner was made based on the correct assumption that Claim 26 was to depend from Claim 24. Therefore, Applicant has amended Claim 26 to be in independent form and to include the limitations from original Claim 24. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of 26.

Claims 27 has been amended to be in independent form and to include the limitations of original Claim 24, from which original Claim 27 depended. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claim 27. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 28, which depends from Claim 27, is also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-19, 21-24, and 26-28 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. If there are any questions, please telephone Edward Mao at (925) 895-3546 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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